

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: December 11, 2014

Agenda Item: 2015 Spring Turkey Quotas/Limits

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

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Background

Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted biennially for most game species. This happens every other year between December and final adoptions in February. Except for sage grouse, upland game bird season dates for 2015 were finalized in February 2014. Other season elements including bag and possession limits may be changed annually. There are no established quota ranges for spring turkey permits and consequently, all changes require Commission approval. There are two proposed changes for 2015 Spring Turkey quotas and limits, and both concern turkey hunting district 395 which includes most of Madison County and Jefferson, Silver Bow and Beaverhead Counties. All other elements of the spring turkey quotas and limits are proposed to remain unchanged from 2014.

SPRING TURKEY

- HD 395-20: increase general permits from 35 to 50
- HD 395-21: increase youth permits from 5 to 10

Public Involvement Process & Results

Public comment on this proposal will run through 5 PM, Friday, January 23. Any final adoption by the FWP Commission will be at the February 12, 2015 Commission meeting.

Alternatives and Analysis

Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions or no change from 2014 (status quo) as per staff justifications, public comment and/or Commission discussion.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends the Commission adopt the proposed change, keeping other elements unchanged from 2014. This is consistent with known biology, management history and survey efforts to date.

Proposed Motion

I move to adopt the proposed spring 2015 turkey quotas and limits as presented by FWP.